

102 years old marks the departure of one of this country's most impassioned conservation leaders.

From her early upbringing in Alaska, Mardy gained a deep respect and love of the region's vast rugged terrain—its unspoiled lands and its remarkable wildlife.

As the first woman graduate of the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, she became a tireless advocate for the protection of Alaska as a national treasure. She once said, "When I was a child, Alaska seemed too vast and wild ever to be changed, but now we are coming to realize how vulnerable this land is. I hope we have the sensitivity to protect Alaska's wilderness . . ."

Upon graduation in 1924, Mardy married naturalist Olaus Murie and together they formed a partnership to not only protect this spectacular land, but other parts of the remaining American wilderness.

As an author and a lifelong activist, she inspired her husband, her family and her fellow citizens to build an entire conservation movement. For decades, the Murie family traveled the Alaskan wilderness, and once established in Wyoming, where Olaus served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they studied the biology of both regions—its mossy tundra, its streams, grassy sloughs, its elk, coyote and moose, and its wilderness.

While her children were growing up, Mardy became an active community member, serving on the school board, campaigning for education and the local library and promoting activities for local youth. In World War II, she grew a victory garden and managed a dude ranch.

In 1944, the Muries moved to Moose, Wyoming, where their home would become a center of the wilderness movement. Following Olaus' retirement from federal service, he accepted the directorship of the Wilderness Society, later to serve as its president.

Through her wilderness experiences with Olaus, Mardy became a fierce advocate for the protection of the Brooks Range in Alaska. She authored a book, *Two in the Far North*, which chronicled their summer-long adventure to this Alaskan region and inspired countless others to visit the Arctic area and fight for its protection.

Their dedication and effort paid off in 1960, when the Arctic National Wildlife Range—later renamed a National Wildlife Refuge—was created.

In 1964, the Muries and many other conservationists won another major victory when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law. Working for the National Park Service, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the Izaak Walton League at various times in her historic career, Mardy explored additional areas in Alaska and other parts of the country to determine their suitability for wilderness designation.

These continuing efforts helped achieve enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter signed into law the bill that my father had sponsored in the House of Representatives.

Mardy Murie was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards honoring her outstanding environmental work. She was awarded the Audubon Medal in 1980, the John Muir Award in 1983, the Robert Marshall Conservation Award in 1986, and an honorary Doctor of Hu-

mane Letters from her alma mater, the University of Alaska. As she neared her 100th birthday in 2002, Mardy was honored with the J.N. Ding Darling Conservationist of the Year Award, the National Wildlife Federation's highest tribute.

In 1998, President Clinton awarded Mardy the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian award. At the event presenting her this distinction, President Clinton said "For Mardy Murie, wilderness is personal. She and her husband, Olaus, spent their honeymoon on a 550-mile dogsled expedition through the Brooks Mountain Range of Alaska. Fitting for a couple whose love for each other was matched only by their love of nature."

Margaret Mardy Murie was a national treasure. As a pioneer of the American conservation movement, she was and will continue to be an inspiration to us all. Her commitment to this country's wilderness sites will be a lasting legacy to the beauty of this nation and the importance and value of preserving our wild landscapes. May her spirit and inspiration live on in all of us for decades to come.

#### INTRODUCING THE JUVENILE VIOLENT GUN CRIME REPORTING ACT

##### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and 27 cosponsors the Juvenile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act. This bipartisan bill would close a loophole in current law and help keep guns out of the hands of individuals with a history of violent crime.

Every year more than 10,000 people are murdered with guns in the United States. In 2001, guns were involved in one third of all violent crimes. Firearms have a particularly damaging effect on America's youth. Of the 1,400 juveniles murdered in 2001, 44 percent were killed with a firearm. During the 1999–2000 school years, 2,837 students were caught bringing a gun to school. In my home state of Illinois, 164 students were expelled for bringing a gun to school between 1999 and 2001. A regrettable but plain fact is that minors are not only the victims of gun crime but the perpetrators as well. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 93,000 gun crimes or 9 percent of the total gun crimes were committed by individuals under the age of 18 between 2000 and 2002.

In an effort to combat America's high rate of gun violence, Congress enacted the Brady Bill in 1994. I was proud to work on passing this landmark bill when I served in the White House. A portion of the Brady law requires any individual wishing to purchase a firearm to undergo a background search. This system, known as the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), prohibits any individual with a violent criminal history from purchasing a weapon. Through 2001, 38 million background checks were conducted and 840,000 purchases were denied. However, a loophole in the Brady Bill allows violent juvenile criminals to purchase firearms. The Juve-

nile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act (JVGCRA) would close this loophole once and for all.

Under current law, nearly all juvenile records are expunged once an individual reaches the age of 18. Because the expunged records are not included in the NICS background check, someone who committed a violent crime before the age of 18 can legally purchase a weapon on his or her 18th birthday. In response to this glaring loophole, my legislation amends federal law and requires states to report violent juvenile crime so that it may be utilized by NICS. Further, the bill makes it illegal for anyone to transfer a weapon to someone who has a history of violent juvenile crime.

Mr. Speaker, the Juvenile Violent Gun Crime Reporting Act is a simple and straightforward bill and could go a long way toward making our streets, schools, and cities much safer for our children and our families. It is a good bill and we hope that my colleagues will join us.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH DISHANNI

##### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph DiShanni, Founder, Executive Director and Director Emeritus of the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce, who passed away on October 21, 2003.

Mr. DiShanni received many awards, accolades, and special recognitions throughout his career in acknowledgement of his tireless commitment to his community. He is most revered for his accomplishments in industrial and business development for the City of Irwindale and the San Gabriel Valley. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Irwindale." In addition to his service to the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce, he served on the Los Angeles County Insurance Commission and as a Traffic Safety Commissioner for Los Angeles County.

Born in Walkkill, New York, in 1909, Mr. DiShanni immigrated with his mother and two older sisters to Italy after the death of his father. At the age of 18, he returned to the United States in search of the American Dream. His hard work and dedication to his community made him an inspiration to all who knew him.

The Irwindale community, his family and his beloved wife Margaret will miss him dearly. I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to him today.

#### THE ARTICLE "THE 'BUT' ECONOMY"

##### HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 2003*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article by former General Electric Chairman and CEO Jack Welch.